

Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

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AMEMBASSY MADRID

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USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 5625

CODEL MCGOVERN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (MCGOVERN, SENATOR GEORGE), PO

SUBJECT: CODEL MCGOVERN

REF: STATE 214572

1. CODEL VISITED LISBON FROM SEPTEMBER 18 THROUGH SEPTEMBER
23. SENATOR'S COMMENTS TO THE PRESS ON DEPARTURE WERE REPORTED
LISBON 5612.

2. CODEL HAD MEETINGS WITH PRESIDENT COSTA GOMES, FONMIN
MELO ANTUNES, CARDINAL PATRIARCH, GENERAL FABIAO, ADMIRAL
ROSA COUTINHO, GENERAL GALVAO DE MELO, CDS LEADER FREITAS
DO AMARAL, PPD OFFICIALS AND A SOCIALIST LABOR UNION LEADER.
HE HAD DINNER AT OFFICIAL RESIDENCE WITH MARIO SOARES AND
PS SYG EMIDIO GUERREIRO. SOARES RECIPROCATED ON SEPT 20
WITH A LUNCH ATTENDED BY SOCIALIST LEADERS-' INCLUDING
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MINISTERS SALGADO ZENHA AND JORGE CAMPINOS. SENATOR ALSO MET

YOUNGER PS AND PPD LEADERS AT RESIDENCE OF POLCOUNS.

3. INITIALLY SENATOR WANTED TO CALL ON CUNHAL. WITH STRONG SUPPORT FROM SOARES AND GUERREIRO WE DISSUADED HIM. HIS STAFF THEN ASKED SOARES ABOUT CALL ON COMMUNIST MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS ALVARO VEIGA DE OLIVEIRA. SOARES WAS INDIFFERENT. I ADVISED AGAINST, BUT SENATOR DECIDED TO GO AHEAD. AFTER BEING KEPT WAITING ONE HALF HOUR, SENATOR WAS TOLD BY OLIVEIRA THAT HE SUPPORTS US AID TO GOP. NOTHING ELSE OF NOTE TRANSPIRED.

4. IN HIS MEETINGS, SENATOR FOCUSED ON DEGREE OF MILITARY SUPPORT FOR NEW GOVERNMENT, US POLICY AND TYPE OF AID PROGRAMS WHICH MIGHT BE MOST BENEFICIAL. ALL OFFICIALS FROM PRESIDENT ON DOWN SAID USG SHOULD SUPPORT NEW GOVERNMENT. ALL INDICATED AN URGENT NEED FOR US AID, BOTH IN THE FORM OF TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.

5. COSTA GOMES RECALLED HIS CONVERSATIONS WITH PRESIDENT FORD AND SECRETARY KISSINGER ON AID. HE SAID THE ECONOMY HAD TO BE REINVIGORATED, AND URGED EXPANDED US ASSISTANCE IN LABOR INTENSIVE AREAS. COSTA GOMES SAID THREE BRANCHES OF ARMED FORCES ARE "SATISFIED" WITH NEW GOP WHICH IS COMPOSED IN ACCORDANCE WITH ELECTORAL RESULTS. PRESIDENT FORESAW NO CHANGE IN PORTUGAL'S STATUS VIS-A-VIS NATO "AS LONG AS THE TWO BLOCS EXIST."

6. MELO ANTUNES URGED RAPID US AID IN THREE SECTORS: (A) TRANSPORTATION OF REFUGEES, (B) ASSISTANCE TO REFUGEES IN PORTUGAL AND (C) LONG TERM AID FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. BIGGEST PROBLEM IN NEXT FEW MONTHS WILL BE TO "REACTIVE ECONOMIC MACHINERY." IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION, MELO ANTUNES SAID DIRECT PL-480 FOOD SHIPMENTS WERE A "POSSIBLE FORM" OF AID TO REFUGEES, BUT HE WOULD HAVE TO DISCUSS THIS WITH OTHER MEMBERS OF CABINET. ON THE ROLE OF THE ARMED FORCES, ANTUNES SAID AS THE GOVERNMENT BECOMES MORE ESTABLISHED, ARMED FORCES WOULD BECOME MORE SUBORDINATE TO CIVILIAN ROLE. RIGHT NOW THE ARMED FORCES MUST PLAY A CENTRAL ROLE IN MAKING THE DEMOCRATIC STATE POSSIBLE. HE CALLED ATTENTION TO THE CONSTITUTION BEING DRAFTED BY THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY AND TO THE PACT BETWEEN THE AFM AND THE POLITICAL PARTIES. IT WOULD

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BE IMPOSSIBLE, HE SAID, TO NORMALIZE THE SITUATION WITHOUT ARMED FORCES LEADERSHIP, "BUT THE MILITARY ARE THE FIRST TO SAY THAT THE POLITICAL LEADERS SHOULD TAKE OVER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE."

7. SOARES SAID THAT RECENT DEVELOPMENTS DID NOT REPRESENT AN IDEOLOGICAL VICTORY FOR DEMOCRATIC FORCES AS MUCH AS A POPULAR REACTION AGAINST COMMUNIST TACTICS. HE SAID PCP WAS STILL

RESPECTED, BUT CUNHAL HAD SHOWED HIMSELF TOTALLY INSENSITIVE TO POLITICAL CURRENTS. GUERREIRO INTERJECTED THAT CUNHAL HAD BEEN SO INEPT THAT HE HAD GIVEN THOUGHT TO SENDING HIM A PPD MEMBERSHIP CARD. SOARES LAID HEAVY STRESS ON RESTORING PRIVATE SECTOR CONFIDENCE. HE URGED IMMEDIATE US FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO HELP STAVE OFF ECONOMIC DISASTER. WHILE THE POLITICAL SITUATION HAD BEEN TURNED AROUND, THERE WERE ENORMOUS PROBLEMS TO OVERCOME IF THE ANTI-COMMUNISTS ARE TO SUCCEED IN MAINTAINING POWER, SOARES SAID.

8. CARDINAL PATRIARCH OUTLINED NEED FOR ASSISTANCE IN A VARIETY OF SOCIAL AREAS, PARTICULARLY HOUSING, EDUCATION AND AGRICULTURE. HE TOO STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF ASSISTANCE FOR REFUGEES. SAID GOP IS NOT MOVING WITH SUFFICIENT ALACRITY. CHURCH IS WORKING ON REFUGEE ASSISTANCE THROUGH CATHOLIC RELIEF AGENCIES BUT SUCH ASSISTANCE IS DIRECTED PRINCIPALLY AT RELIEF AND NOT AT LONG TERM INTEGRATION. PATRIARCH SAID RELATIONS WITH PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN CHARACTERIZED BY "SOME DIFFICULTY." HE LOOKED TO IMPROVEMENT IN RELATIONS WITH NEW GOVERNMENT AS THAT GOVERNMENT TOOK STEPS TO RESTORE GREATER BALANCE IN THE POLITICAL SCENE.

9. SENATOR MCGOVERN CHARACTERIZED HIS VISIT WITH GENERAL CARLOS FABIAO, PORTUGUESE ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF, AS VERY REWARDING. HE WAS CONSIDERABLY IMPRESSED WITH FABIAO, STATING HE BELIEVES THAT FABIAO WILL BE AN IMPORTANT LEADER IN PORTUGAL'S FUTURE. THE INTERVIEW (BEING REPORTED IN DETAIL BY DAO) CONSISTED PRIMARILY OF QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS RELATED TO THE PORTUGUESE ARMED FORCES'S ROLE IN THE REVOLUTION AND THE CURRENT POLITICAL SCENE.

10. COMMENT: SENATOR MADE A GOOD IMPRESSION ON ALL OF HIS CALLS. HE CONSISTENTLY EXPRESSED HIS SUPPORT FOR GOALS OF CONFIDENTIAL

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REVOLUTION AND WILLINGNESS OF CONGRESS TO BE FORTHCOMING IN PROVIDING ASSISTANCE. HE ALSO INDICATED SENSITIVITY OF USG TO POLITICAL CONDITIONS IN PORTUGAL AND OUR DESIRE TO AVOID INTERFERING IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS. NONE OF HIS INTERLOCUTORS SAID THERE WAS ANY SUCH INTERFERENCE, BUT ALL INDICATED APPRECIATION FOR HIS UNDERSTANDING OF THIS ASPECT OF USG-GOP RELATIONS.

11. UPON HIS RETURN SENATOR CAN BE EXPECTED TO ADVOCATE AID FOR PORTUGAL. HE MENTIONED \$80 MILLION IN HIS PRESS CONFERENCE. HE ALSO WILL PROBABLY PRESS FOR USG GOOD ASSISTANCE FOR REFUGEES.

12. SENATOR WAS FAVORABLY IMPRESSED BY USG POLICIES HERE AND SO INDICATED IN HIS CONVERSATIONS WITH PORTUGUESE.
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